



# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2004 was 4.6 percent, unchanged from June, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was eight-tenths of a percent below July 2003's unemployment rate of 5.4 percent and four-tenths of a percentage point above the May 2004 rate of 4.2 percent. Month-over-month the total number of employed persons decreased 1,000 from June 2004, four-tenths of a percent drop in employment. This decrease is seasonal in nature and occurs every year due to schools being out and food manufacturing facilities shutting down temporarily for maintenance work in anticipation of the upcoming harvest season. During July 2004 the *Civilian Labor Force* decreased by 1,000 as did the total number of people employed as mentioned above. Due to the fact that the labor force and employment decreased by the same amount, the unemployment rate remained unchanged between June and July of 2004. Despite the seasonal slowdown in July, there were over 8,000 more jobs in the Treasure Valley in July 2004 than in July 2003. Those 8,000 jobs provided a

Treasure Valley Table 2: July 2004 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	179,915	7,150	4.0	172,765
Adams	1,691	262	15.5	1,430
Boise	2,649	205	7.7	2,444
Canyon	71,593	4,418	6.2	67,175
Elmore	9,379	606	6.5	8,772
Gem	5,275	339	6.4	4,936
Owyhee	4,757	86	1.8	4,672
Payette	9,370	710	7.6	8,660
Valley	4,292	288	6.7	4,004
Washington	4,139	414	10.0	3,725
Statewide	706,581	34,604	4.9	671,977

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Ada and Canyon Counties

	Jul 2004*	Jun 2004	Jul 2003	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	251,500	252,500	245,000	-0.4	2.7
Unemployment	11,600	11,600	13,200	0.0	-12.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.6	5.4		
Total Employment	239,900	240,900	231,800	-0.4	3.5
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	255,200	256,100	248,700	-0.4	2.6
Unemployment	11,600	11,400	13,200	1.8	-12.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.4	5.3		
Total Employment	243,600	244,700	235,500	-0.4	3.4
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>					
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	47,900	47,800	45,700	0.2	4.8
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</b>	17,500	17,300	16,100	1.2	8.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>	30,400	30,500	29,600	-0.3	2.7
Durable Goods	23,700	23,700	22,500	0.0	5.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	15,300	15,100	14,500	1.3	5.5
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,500	1,600	1,600	-6.3	-6.3
Other Durable Goods	2,700	2,800	2,100	-3.6	28.6
Nondurable Goods	6,700	6,800	7,100	-1.5	-5.6
Food Manufacturing	4,900	5,100	5,300	-3.9	-7.5
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,100	1,000	1,100	10.0	0.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	189,100	190,900	182,200	-0.9	3.8
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	45,700	45,600	43,700	0.2	4.6
Trade	38,600	38,400	36,900	0.5	4.6
Wholesale Trade	10,400	10,200	10,100	2.0	3.0
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,300	6,400	6,300	-1.6	0.0
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,800	2,800	2,900	0.0	-3.4
Retail Trade	28,200	28,200	26,800	0.0	5.2
Food & Beverage Stores	4,500	4,500	4,200	0.0	7.1
General Merchandise Stores	6,200	6,200	5,800	0.0	6.9
All Other Retail Trade	17,500	17,500	16,800	0.0	4.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,100	7,200	6,800	-1.4	4.4
Utilities	600	600	600	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	6,500	6,600	6,200	-1.5	4.8
<b>Information</b>	4,200	4,100	3,900	2.4	7.7
Telecommunications	1,500	1,500	1,400	0.0	7.1
<b>Financial Activities</b>	13,100	13,100	12,500	0.0	4.8
Finance & Insurance	9,600	9,700	9,200	-1.0	4.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,500	3,400	3,300	2.9	6.1
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	34,700	34,500	32,100	0.6	8.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	10,800	10,800	10,200	0.0	5.9
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,600	5,600	5,600	0.0	0.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	18,300	18,100	16,300	1.1	12.3
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	29,100	29,500	28,300	-1.4	2.8
Educational Services	1,100	1,600	2,000	-31.3	-45.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	28,000	27,900	26,300	0.4	6.5
Hospitals	9,600	9,600	9,300	0.0	3.2
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	21,700	21,700	20,800	0.0	4.3
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,200	3,200	3,200	0.0	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	18,500	18,500	17,600	0.0	5.1
Accommodation	2,200	2,200	2,100	0.0	4.8
Food Services & Drinking Places	16,300	16,300	15,500	0.0	5.2
<b>Other Services</b>	7,000	7,000	6,800	0.0	2.9
<b>Total Government</b>	33,600	35,400	34,100	-5.1	-1.5
Federal Government	5,900	5,900	5,600	0.0	5.4
State & Local Government	27,700	29,500	28,500	-6.1	-2.8
State Government	12,300	12,300	12,800	0.0	-3.9
State Government Education	3,100	3,100	3,400	0.0	-8.8
State Government Administration	9,200	9,200	9,400	0.0	-2.1
Local Government	15,400	17,200	15,700	-10.5	-1.9
Local Government Education	9,100	10,900	9,600	-16.5	-5.2
Local Government Administration	6,300	6,300	6,100	0.0	3.3

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

growth rate of 3.4 percent in total employment from year ago levels. Also, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 1,600 from one year ago which is a 12.1 percent decrease in the number of unemployed persons in the Treasure Valley. The *Civilian Labor Force* increased over the past year by 6,500 people while the number of persons employed increased by 8,100 during the same time period, as Treasure Valley Table 1 on page 11 shows, and as long as employment growth outpaces labor force growth, the unemployment rate will drop. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for July 2004 for all ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2 on page 11.

During July 2004, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in the Boise MSA decreased by 1,700 jobs—a .7 percent drop from June 2004. From July 2003 to July 2004, however, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* grew by 9,100—a large number of new jobs—for a growth rate of 4.0 percent.

Month-over-month, *Goods-Producing Industries* grew by 100 jobs. *Natural Resources, Mining & Construction* experienced the most growth in the super sector, increasing by 200 jobs from June. *Manufacturing*, experienced a decline of 100 jobs from June to July, but from July 2003 the sector added 800 new jobs. The employment loss from June to July 2004 in *Manufacturing* occurred in *Nondurable Goods*. This is a seasonal occurrence in this sector due to production shutdowns at the food processing plants in the Treasure Valley for maintenance work. Once the plants finish processing last year's crop these facilities will temporarily lay off a portion of their workforce until the current years' crops become available for processing.

From June to July 2004, the *Service-Providing Industries* experienced large employment losses of 1,800 jobs occurring entirely in *Local Government Education*. Though losses were experienced in other sectors of the *Service Providing Industries*, gains occurring in other sectors sufficiently offset any losses. *Trade, Transportation & Utilities* grew by 100 jobs in July 2004 and by 2,000 jobs since July 2003. The increase in *Trade, Transportation & Utilities* occurred entirely in the *Wholesale Trade* sector. No changes were seen in *Retail Trade* and a 100-job loss occurred in *Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities*. The *Information* sector of the *Service-Providing Industries* grew by 100 jobs, while the *Financial Activities* industries experienced offsetting gains and losses in *Finance & Insurance* and *Real Estate Rental & Leasing*. *Professional & Business Services* grew by 200 new jobs, entirely from the *Administrative, Support, & Waste Management* sector, as employment agencies continue to see increased activity compared to year ago levels. *Educational & Health Services* dropped from June to July by 400 jobs due to schools closing for the summer, but *Health Care & Social Assistance* continued to grow, increasing by 100 from June 2004 and by 1,700 jobs from July 2003, a year-over-year employment growth of 6.5 percent.

As was mentioned previously, the *Government* sector of the *Service-Providing Industries* is entirely responsible for the July 2004 decline in *Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*.

Most sectors in *Government* remained unchanged from June to July 2004 with the exception of *Local Government Education*. Again, this is a seasonal drop that occurs each year and within the next two months is expected to increase as quickly as it decreased when schools reopen.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Boise City MSA

- Shadow Hills Square is a proposed retail, office and apartment project to be located on the north side of State Street just west of Gary Lane in Boise. The \$22 million project should be completed in five phases and was scheduled to start in late summer. The first phase consists of tearing down existing buildings and constructing a new road. Bidding for construction of the new road is underway.
- Construction permit valuations are down in Ada County by 14 percent so far in 2004 compared with 2003's values through the first six months of the year. Projects gaining permits for 2004 total an estimated \$162.7 million compared with \$188.1 million in 2003. However, permits for commercial additions, alterations, and repairs was up by 17 percent to \$5.74 million.
- Casa Mexico, which has four locations in the Treasure Valley, is planning a fifth in Middleton. Construction on the new restaurant was scheduled to start in August and to be open by November. The new restaurant will employ about 15 people adding to Casa Mexico's approximately 60 existing employees.
- Cartridge World, a new business franchise that refills ink cartridges for printers and remanufactures cartridges for laser printers, has recently opened in Meridian. To refill an ink cartridge the remaining ink inside is withdrawn and cleaned, then the cartridge is refilled. To remanufacture a laser cartridge, it is taken apart, cleaned, and the necessary parts and toner are all replaced. Refilled or remanufactured cartridges cost about half the price of new cartridges and are said to work just as effectively.
- A 50-year lease has been signed with the City of Boise by former silicone valley software engineer Peter Vanek to build a rock climbing gym. The Boise Rock Gym will cost close to \$1 million to build; plans call for it to be open in January. The gym will have a 9,000-square-foot climbing wall and a 43-foot ceiling to go along with it. In addition to the rock wall the Boise Rock Gym will have exercise equipment, a variety of fitness classes, and a gear shop selling climbing accessories and gear.
- Washington Group International (WGI), headquartered in Boise, recently won a contract to design and manage a uranium enrichment plant in New Mexico. The contract is worth \$16 million to WGI, and construction on the plant is scheduled for the fall of 2006.

- The two largest hospitals in the Treasure Valley are planning to hire more healthcare workers in the near and long-term future. St. Lukes Regional Medical Center is planning to hire nurses and nursing support workers among other patient care professionals. St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center plans to hire more workers as well, but in a more varied range of occupations such as therapy services, pharmacy, medical imaging, and service and support. Both hospitals recruit for openings locally, within Idaho, regionally, and nationally.
- In August, Zions Bank announced that it was hiring 22 former employees from Washington Mutual in Idaho who were laid off.
- Meridian will soon accept a \$250,000 grant to assist Louisiana Pacific in expanding its plant located in Meridian. The lumber company plans to add nearly 40 jobs once the expansion is complete.
- Western States Contracting Alliance recently awarded MPC Computers of Nampa (including Dell, Gateway, and Hewlett Packard) a contract from 2004-2007. Six other computer manufacturers who were part of the contract include Dell, Gateway, and Hewlett Packard. The Alliance provides state and local governments, and educational institutions with purchasing abilities for computer systems and other equipment. The \$3 billion three-year contract agreement will allow MPC to expand its marketing operations in approximately 19 new states. MPC's contract began September 1; the company plans to hire a few new employees to handle the state and local government sales, and the educational institution sales.
- Construction activity in Meridian had another record month in July. Single-family housing permit values declined by \$2.3 million from June, but the Sagecrest Apartments, valued at \$8.6 million, offset the decline in single-family housing values. Sagecrest Apartment Complex will consist of 48 fourplexes on the southwest corner of Overland and Millennium Way west of Eagle Road.
- WGI recently acquired the last 40 percent of the former Westinghouse government services businesses, a one-time subsidiary of BNFL Inc. With this acquisition, WGI will control the Westinghouse Government Services Co. and the Westinghouse Government Environmental Services Co.
- Boise information technology services and software company CRI Advantage was recently awarded a \$4.3 million contract. The Idaho Department of Education and the J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation provided funding for the award. Under the contract CRI will provide analytics software to all of Idaho's

schools providing teachers with easier access to student information.

#### Valley County

- Tamarack Resort will be acquiring Life Flight service just in time for the official opening of alpine skiing. Cascade Medical Center, in cooperation with St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center of Boise, has recently announced plans for a resort-based health care clinic and local Life Flight service for guests and area residents, scheduled to open in December. The Life Flight helicopter will be based at the McCall Airport.
- Tamarack Resort will open its alpine ski slopes and related facilities on December 15. There will be 25 downhill runs and five operating chair lifts. Lift ticket prices will be \$55 for adults and \$28 for youth ages 7-17; children ages 6 and under can ski for free. Discounts will be available for military, senior citizens, and college students. In addition to downhill skiing, there will be a full-service Nordic ski park with over 18 miles of trails, over 6 miles of groomed snowshoe trails, and access to hundreds of acres of backcountry skiing opportunities.
- Holland Realty of Boise has opened an office at Village Square in McCall. The McCall office will handle residential, commercial, and investment properties along with construction sales and management. Holland Realty sold over \$500 million in real estate during 2003.

#### Payette County

- Fruitland based Woodgrain Millwork has recently purchased American Pine Products of Prineville, Oregon. American Pine Products makes pine molding, window frames, door components, specialty millwork, and has a cut stock operation. This purchase has added an additional 500,000-square feet of space and approximately 350 employees to Woodgrain Millwork's business, bringing their total number of employees to over 5,000 in 24 locations in the United States and in South America. The local Fruitland factory currently employs approximately 760 people.

#### Elmore County

- The Dollar Tree opened a new location in Mountain Home with a grand opening in late August.

---

John Panter, Regional Labor Economist  
 205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642  
 (208) 364-7785, ext. 3599  
 E-mail: jpanter@cl.idaho.gov